



DIGGING DEEPER

Small Group Discussion Guide: Matthew 8:1-17

During this 5-week series in Matthew 8–10, we will watch the King in action. Jesus has just finished teaching with authority in the Sermon on the Mount, and now He puts that authority on display: over sickness, storms, and spiritual powers. Then He sends His followers out to join His mission. **Before you begin your discussion, take a moment to pray together.** Invite the Holy Spirit to open your hearts and minds to what He wants to show you. Ask Him to guide your conversation, help you listen well to one another, and reveal how He is inviting you to grow.

READ THE PASSAGE TOGETHER: Matthew 8:1–17

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Don't feel pressured to get through every question! Follow as the Spirit leads and spend your time on the questions that spark meaningful conversation.

1. **Read Matthew 8:1–4.** The man with leprosy never doubted Jesus could heal him. He only asked, “If you are willing.” When you pray, which is harder for you to believe: that God is able, or that He is willing? Why?
2. **Read Leviticus 13:45–46 and Matthew 8:3.** Jesus could have healed with a word, yet He reached out and touched a man no one would touch. Why do you think He did that? Who might feel “untouchable” in our community today?
3. **Read Matthew 8:5–10.** The centurion understood authority because he lived under it, so he trusted Jesus to “just say the word.” What would it look like for you to trust and follow Jesus’ authority this week?
4. **Read Matthew 8:10–13.** Jesus was amazed by an outsider’s faith and warned insiders who assumed they had a seat at the table. Tim Keller says, “The humble are in and the proud are out.” Where might we be tempted to assume we are “in”?
5. **Read Matthew 8:14–17 and Isaiah 53:4.** Matthew says Jesus “took up our infirmities and bore our diseases,” and Peter’s mother-in-law got up and served Him. What do you need to bring to Jesus right now and ask Him to carry? How could you serve Him in response?

SHARE & PRAYER

As we watch the King in action in Matthew 8–10, we want to grow in recognizing the authority of Jesus in everyday life and in joining Him on His mission! We invite you to cultivate the practice of paying attention as you go about your week, pausing to reflect, noticing where you see Jesus at work, where He is asking you to trust His word, and who He might be sending you toward. As we learn to notice and name what the King is doing, we become more aware of His presence and more ready to take part in what He is doing. **Take on the weekly challenge to pay attention and come prepared to share with your group!**

- **SHARE:** Where have you seen God at work this week? Share a story, moment, conversation, answered prayer, unexpected provision, opportunity, or anything else that made you aware of God. (This could be in your own life, someone else’s life, our church, or the world around you).
- **RESPOND:** What might God be inviting you to do, see, trust, change or participate in this week?
- **PRAY:** Share prayer requests and pray together. Incorporate this week’s passage and ask: Where do we need to trust the King’s authority and invite Him to act?





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MORE WAYS TO ENGAGE

Fair Oaks Church Sermon Podcast (Apple Pod & Spotify)

- Listen to Sunday messages posted weekly
- Listen to Cutting Room Floor episodes that further unpack sermons

UPCOMING EVENTS [Learn more at fairoaks.church/events](https://fairoaks.church/events)

- **2027 Mission Trip Applications Open** | Due by 11/30 | Submit online at fairoaks.church/missions
- **10/28: Missionary Meet-Up** | 6p | Family Life Center - AMC | Join us for a potluck and to hear from Misha Rozvodovsky, serving in Russia
- **11/1: Congregational Meeting** | 11:45a | Worship Center | For members to vote on church officers (elders and deacons) who will begin serving in 2027. Details at fairoaks.church/nominations.
- **11/5: WFO Women's Brunch** | 9:30a-11:30a | Family Life Center (AMC Room) | Speaker: Laurel Harper from Operation Christmas Child (Samaritan's Purse)
- **11/7: Craft Fair** | 9a-2p | Family Life Center | Come shop for handmade crafts and seasonal items for the holidays | All proceeds will benefit missions and outreach projects through Fair Oaks Church
- **11/7: Free Grief Workshop Series** | Nov 7, 14, & 21 | 1:30p-3:30p | Kids & Youth Center – High School Classroom | Presented by David Howell, Counselor with CCA
- **11/8: Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes Due** | Pick up an empty box in the lobby and return it filled, with \$10 per box
- **11/8: Thanksgiving Food Drive** | 9a-12p | Worship Center Lobby | We are partnering with the Sayonara Center in Citrus Heights and Northridge Elementary School to provide local families with all ingredients for a Thanksgiving meal | List of needed items at fairoaks.church/events
- **11/8: Family Devotions Class** | 12-2p | Kids Assembly Room | Recommended for 3rd-8th graders and parents | Lunch provided | Childcare provided for children under 3rd grade | Register at fairoaks.church/events
- **11/8: Winds of Faith Concert** | 4-6p | Worship Center | Winds of Faith is a non-profit community concert band with over 30 members | Free (a freewill offering will be taken)
- **11/11: Hope Gathering Widows Group** | 5-7p | Family Life Center (AMC Room) | For widows of all ages to find hope and healing
- **11/13: Distribution Day at FO/OV Food Bank** | 9a-12:30p | Volunteers needed to serve at the food bank | Sign up to help at fairoaks.church/missions

STAY INFORMED

Check The Weekly fairoaks.church/theweekly - All church news in one spot!

